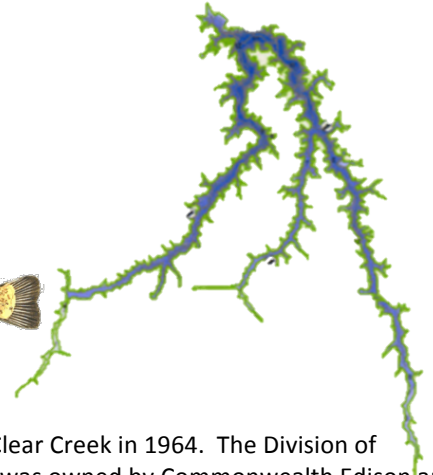




# 2016 Lake Status Summary

IDNR – Fisheries

## Lake Sangchris



**Location:** 20 miles southeast of Springfield off IL Rt. 104, 7 miles north of Bulpitt

**Area:** 2325 acres

**Lake history and characteristics:** Lake Sangchris was developed as a result of damming Clear Creek in 1964. The Division of Fisheries has been involved in the management of this lake from its beginning in 1965. It was owned by Commonwealth Edison and served as a cooling lake for their coal-fired power plant. The fish community is therefore highly dependent on power plant operation. Commonwealth Edison sold the plant to the current owner, Dominion Power, in the early 2000's. The lake boasts 100 miles of shoreline and is characterized by a west and middle arm cooling loop and an east ambient arm. The east arm receives much of the water within the watershed, therefore suffers from siltation. Much of the shoreline and cove habitat was once composed of dense beds of water lily and submersed aquatic vegetation. Those communities have recently collapsed and no cause has been determined at this point. The maximum depth in the lake is approximately 38 feet with an average depth of approximately 13 feet. Lake Sangchris has three boat access points; one on each arm. Below is a list of the fish species that are doing well in Lake Sangchris.

**Largemouth bass:** Lake Sangchris is known for its high density bass population with electrofishing surveys commonly exceeding 80 bass/hr. We collected a total of 627 bass (108/hr electrofishing) ranging from 5 – 20.5" and weighing up to 5.2 lbs. Our survey showed that 47% of the catchable population measured over 12" (PSD = 47), 18% measured over the minimum length limit of 15" (RSD15 = 18) and 5% measured over 18" (RSD18 = 5). Less than desirable body condition of largemouth bass seems to be normal for this cooling lake. Largemouth bass mean body condition tends to range in the low 90's most years. Acceptable body condition values range from 90-110 (91 in 2016). Hot water discharge into the lake may cause largemouth bass to burn more energy than they can consume during the hot summer months. Gizzard shad have exhibited erratic spawns in Lake Sangchris in the past and threadfin shad survival is dependent on power plant operation in the winter. Breeder threadfin shad are often stocked in an effort to offset the results of winter kills. Anglers can catch largemouth bass on points, deadfalls, and stickups within the entire lake year round with plastic worms, jigs, spinners, crank baits, minnows, crayfish and worms. The largest bass ever collected by electrofishing measured 22" long and weighed over 7 lbs!

**Crappie:** Lake Sangchris contains both black and white crappie. The black crappie are a strain originally brought in from Arkansas in 1985 that have a ¼" wide black stripe running from just under the chin up over the nose to the dorsal fin. They are called black-nosed or black-striped crappie by anglers. They are a beautiful and a prized sportfish. The crappie population is still developing at Lake Sangchris. The 2014 fish population survey showed dramatic increases in both black and white crappie numbers, but the 2016 survey showed lower catch rates. However, the general trend in crappie numbers over the last 10 years is positive trend. White crappie ranged from 8 – 12.5", while black crappie ranged from 5 – 12.5". The majority of the crappie collected in the 2016 fall survey measured over the 10" minimum length limit. The population structures are still not yet within management goals. Natural spawning may be limited due to sporadic water temperatures during the spawning season. There has been evidence of natural reproduction in the past, but it doesn't seem to be consistent, therefore the crappie stocking program will continue until populations are stable. White and black crappie have been raised in the Lake Sangchris rearing pond since the ponds construction in 1992. The pond was out of service for 4 years due to a bad leak, but it has been rehabilitated and is currently back in use. Brood black and blacknose crappie were stocked into the rearing pond in spring 2015 and the pond was harvested in fall 2016. We stocked approximately 13,000 black crappie averaging 5.8". Brood blacknose crappie will be stocked into the rearing pond in spring 2017. Anglers can catch crappie on hundreds of submerged Christmas trees and other structures within the entire lake with spinners, jigs and minnows year round. A 16 ½", 3 lb black crappie was recently brought to the biologist for weighing and identifying!

**Striped bass:** Pure striped bass are non-native and have been stocked into Lake Sangchris every other year since 1983 when available. The striped bass stocking program has produced some great fishing opportunities. Past surveys have shown that the lake has not produced many fish over 20 pounds, but there is a good density of striped bass up to 14 lbs. Focused striped bass surveys have not been conducted in many years due to time and manpower constraints. Anglers can catch stripers near "striper point" located in the northern portion of the lake in the warmer months and in the hot water middle arm of the lake when water is being discharged in the winter. Anglers can catch stripers using large spinnerbaits, crankbaits, spoons, jigs, crayfish or large minnows. The current state record of 31 pounds 7 ounces was caught at Lake Sangchris!

**Channel catfish:** The channel catfish population is doing well both in quantity and quality. Fish up to 8 pounds are surveyed most years. A total of 39 channel catfish were collected while electrofishing in 2016 (7 fish/hr). Channel catfish collected in 2016 measured from 8.5 – 21.5” and weighed up to 3.7 lbs. Other gears, such as gill nets or low frequency, pulsed-DC electrofishing should be utilized to appropriately monitor the channel catfish population, but time and man power constraints don’t allow for the extra effort. Anglers can catch channel catfish in the warmer months using bottom fishing techniques near deadfalls and woody debris with cut bait, shrimp, chicken livers or night crawlers. The largest channel catfish ever collected by electrofishing measured over 27” and weighed 9 lbs.

**Flathead catfish:** Flathead catfish are difficult to survey, but anecdotal evidence suggests angler catches are becoming more common. Lake Sangchris is now over 50 years old and is developing a reputation for producing flathead catfish weighing over 40 lbs. The largest flathead ever collected in a survey weighed 69 lbs and the largest caught by an angler weighed 81.45 lbs, which is the current state record. Flathead catfish exceeding 40 lbs are harvested every year. We collected 1 flathead measuring 14” and weighing 1 lb during the 2016 fall fish population survey. Anglers can catch flathead catfish using live bait such as minnows, sunfish, shad, or crayfish around submerged logs and deadfalls in the warmer months and deep holes in the colder months.

**Other fish species:** A total of 26 fish species have been collected in Lake Sangchris since 1982. While their numbers and potential for successful angling are low, anglers may catch bluegill, green sunfish, green sunfish x bluegill hybrid, freshwater drum, white bass, or yellow bass.

**Fishing Regulations:** see the Fishing Regulation Booklet or [IFISHILLINOIS.org](http://IFISHILLINOIS.org) for updates

Largemouth bass - 15” minimum length limit with a creel limit of 3 per day.



Crappie - 10” minimum length limit with a creel limit of 10 fish per day.



Striped bass - No limit under 17”. 3 fish/day over 17”.



Two pole and line fishing only, no commercial devices such as trot lines, jugs, or bank poles.

Archery fishing is allowed for rough fish, but not within 200 yds of a developed areas such as a campground.



	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Management Objectives
<b>Largemouth Bass</b>												
% >12"	56	63	60	63	61	50	71.5	67.2	56.8	44	47	40-70
% >15"	19	13	15	22	21	14.5	24.2	35.7	35.1	17	18	15-25
% >18"	5	3	3	4	5	3.8	5.1	5.7	9.7	1	5	8-10
condition	97	91	-	97	92	91	91	92	96	93	91	90-110
(fish/hour EF)	182	141	70	81	76	147.4	104	70.5	51.5	145	108	>80
<b>White Crappie</b>												
% >8"	100	94	79	97	100	95.9	67	63.3	97.8	95	100	40-60
% >10"	78	86	14	72	85	87.8	23.1	20.9	32.2	19	87	20-40
% >12"	6	25	3	9	27	37.8	2.2	0.7	0	0	19	5-15
condition	104	98	97	96	94	91	90	87	90	88	87	90-100
(fish/hour EF)	13	5	16	34	19	11.3	10.4	14	41.3	17	15	60-100
<b>Black Crappie</b>												
% >8"	100	100	64	76	99	91.7	37	21.2	94.7	100	99	40-60
% >10"	85	25	36	15	83	66.7	29.6	0	18.9	75	79	20-40
% >12"	55	11	2	2	8	8.3	14.8	0	0	0	13	5-15
condition	98	93	96	98	94	90	87	85	88	91	90	90-100
(fish/hour EF)	4	4	5	10	16	1.5	3	7.6	17.3	24	16	20-40

**Aquatic vegetation and/or chemical treatment:** none

**Fisheries Management Activities Completed:**

- conducted 5-45 min and 2-40 min electrofishing surveys 10/19-20
- stocked 13,000 – 5.9” black crappie from the onsite nursery pond 11/8

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